The Trinitarian

News, Notes and Inspiration from Trinity Church Oxford  
March 2012

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From the Rector  
My Dear People,

This year, the season of Lent is (mostly) neatly contained within the month of March. We have this month to prepare for the great Feast of the Resurrection and for fitly partaking in its splendor through acts of self-denial and consciously re-orienting our attitudes toward God and our brothers and sisters. We do this by fasting, giving, and praying.

During Lent, people often ask one another, “So, what did you give up?” It is widely understood that in this season of self-denial, it is beneficial to deprive ourselves of certain indulgences and treats that we especially enjoy, but with without which we can certainly live. The purpose of this practice is not to bestow misery upon us, but rather, in the words of the Missal, to "...curb our sinfulness, uplift our hearts, and bestow both virtue and its reward upon us." Far from being a "holy hunger strike," fasting is intended to heighten our attentiveness to God's voice and to the needs of the world around us by removing the blinders of comfort that we use to insulate ourselves from pain.

In Anglican circles, someone might also ask you, "So, what have you taken on?" We view Lent as not just a time to meditate on our own sinfulness, but also as an especially opportune time to show that we truly have the love of Christ in our hearts by offering some solace to those in need. In doing so we join the likes of St. Veronica, who offered her fine veil to wipe the sweaty and bloodied face of Jesus, or St. Simon of Cyrene, who carried the cross when our Lord could no longer bear the load. I encourage you to take something on personally. As a parish, we are pledging our mite box collection to Dodwell House, a ministry of St. Anna's Church in New Orleans.

Scripture exhorts us to "pray without ceasing." Indeed, this is a year-round vocation for each Christian, but during Lent, we put a special emphasis on our personal and corporate lives of prayer. This is certainly

Our Staff  
The Rev. Richard Robyn, Rector  
Mary Sampson, M.A., Organist/Choirmaster  
Chris Claypool, Secretary  
Michael Pacillo, Sexton

Our Vestry  
Dorothy Orr, Rector's Warden  
Judith Maile, Accounting Warden  
John Annand  
Nellie Duddy  
Lynne Geliebter  
Rose McClarin
not to say that prayer is a form of penance—quite the contrary. Each week, our service paper has an entire page with the heading “Our Prayers for the Week.” It lists, in rotation, the parishes of our diocese, the sick, the homebound, the departed, members of the parish family serving their country, as well as thanksgivings for birthdays and other occasions of joy. Please remember to take this home and incorporate it into your own daily prayers. In addition to personal and corporate prayer, there is a form somewhere in the middle, which is between you and your priest, namely, the sacrament of Confession. The Exhortation in the Book of Common Prayer (pp. 316-317) urges its use, and as the great Anglican saying goes, "none must; all may; some should." Please email me or ring the office to make an appointment.

May you find this Lent to be a season of spiritual growth and discovery.

Blessings, Father Richard

Acolyte Rehearsal
There will be a rehearsal for all acolytes on Saturday, March 31 at 11am in the church, followed by a pizza lunch. Please notify Father Richard if you will not be attending. All acolytes must be present to review the special rites involved with Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, etc. It is also an opportunity to get fitted for a larger vestment if needed.

Annunciation
This year, the Feast of the Annunciation falls on Sunday, March 25. It is one of the most important feast days of the Church year, which commemorates the Angel Gabriel's delivery of God's invitation to St. Mary to be the mother of Jesus Christ—exactly 9 months before Christmas. We will observe this feast with special music, scripture readings, and sermon at the 10am service that day. Please join us.

Candidates for Vestry
Our Annual Parish Meeting is coming up on April 29, so now is the time to think about investing yourself in a leadership role at Trinity. There are five people leaving the Vestry this year and only one is eligible to run again; the other four must sit off for a year. Without a Vestry to authorize monies and to see to the operation of the Parish we cannot operate. So we need YOU to volunteer to stand for a Vestry position.

Who is eligible? Any baptized person, over 21 years of age, whose household has been a pledging member of Trinity for two years and is reasonably regular in attendance.

What does it entail? Attendance at Vestry meetings one evening a month, usually the third Monday from 7-9 pm. For one three year term that amounts to 30 meetings (we don't meet in July or August) and 60 hours total. The Vestry is extremely good about keeping the meetings on track and to that two hour time allotment. Each Vestry member serves on
one committee of their choice with varying degrees of time commitment.

Won’t someone else do it? There is no one else. We are a very small parish in numbers so we need everyone who is able to serve.

What's in it for me? Lots. You will get a better understanding of what it takes for Trinity to be an active parish, you'll have a direct and on-going say in how Trinity is run, and you'll get to know better those folks serving with you.

How do I get on the ballot? Talk to one of the following Nominating Committee members: John Annand, Lynne Geliebter, Judy Maile, Pam McCracken, or Mindy Weaver, and tell them that you are willing to stand for Vestry.

Daylight Saving Time Begins
Remember to "spring ahead" on Saturday, March 10, before you retire for the evening, or you will be one hour late for Mass on Sunday.

Easter Memorials
If you would like to contribute to the beautiful music and flowers that fill our church at Easter, envelopes are available in the church or you may send a check to the office no later than April 2. You may also contribute online via the donate button on the home page of our website. Please be sure to note the loved one in whose memory or thanksgiving the donation is given.

Fridays in Lent
Each Friday morning during Lent we will celebrate the Holy Eucharist in the traditional manner at 10am in the Church. The first service is on Friday, February 24. All are welcome!

Lenten Learning
Each Sunday in Lent we will have an educational forum during coffee hour. We will be listening to an audio-book version of Comfort for God's People, a book which provides a fascinating historical background for the composition of Handel's Messiah, tracing not only its unlikely inception but also amazing reception throughout history. The series includes an outing to see the Pennsylvania Ballet's translation of the world-famous Messiah libretto to the stage. The ballet opens with a full choir on stage followed by dancers who dramatically interpret the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. Please join us at coffee hour or see Father Richard for tickets.

Lenten Outreach
Please pick up a mite box or a Lenten offering envelope in the church and support this year's giving to Dodwell House, a ministry of St. Anna's Church in New Orleans. The ministry of Dodwell House will preserve an historic landmark home in the Treme neighborhood, which will house an outreach to immigrants, local children, those in need of medical care, as well as accommodating up to 50 people who are on mission trips to New Orleans. You may also send donations in to the Church office with the notation "Dodwell House." Please be generous, and shake out the change from your sofa.

Marriage Banns
I publish the banns of marriage between David Dignetti of Philadelphia and Deirdre Makula of Philadelphia.

I publish the banns of marriage between Michael Paul Prete of Philadelphia and Kaitlyn Elizabeth Geliebter of Abington.

I publish the banns of marriage between Keith Williams of Burlington, VT and Joan Ellen Annand of Burlington, VT.

This is the first time of asking. If any of you know cause or just impediment why these persons should not be joined together in Holy Matrimony, ye are to declare it. Father Robyn

Memorials
Longtime parishioner Harold H. Harrison died at home, surrounded by family on February 26 at the age of 93. His funeral took place on March 1 at Trinity. May Harold’s soul, and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Many thanks for the donations given by Karl & Lorie Henry, and John & Lois Annand, in loving memory of Ruth DeFant, grandmother of Karl & Lorie and great-grandmother of Anna, Sarah and Iain.

Music Ministry
This month I want to focus on our Bell Choir. It is always a special treat when our Bell Choir performs a musical offering at one of our Services. We are blessed to have a dedicated group of youth and adults who work very hard to “make melody to the Lord.” Our Bell Choir includes: Lynne Geliebter, Vicki Sayers, Sarah Putterman, Alex Putterman, Sarah Henry, Francesca Campanaro, Maddy Putterman, and Aaron Putterman. On most Thursday nights, you will find them at Trinity rehearsing for their next presentation. It has been a tradition at Trinity for our Bell Choir to play on Palm Sunday prior to the opening liturgy and before the reading of the Passion. We express our gratitude to these special people and look forward to hearing them play again very soon. Soli Deo Gloria! Mary G. Sampson, Organist/Choirmaster

Property Committee
March is coming in like a lion and not necessarily in a bad way. Several projects will be on going through the month: the steeple restoration project and the removal of the Elm tree between the Buchanan Building and the
A walk through of the Parish house was done to address several problems. There is a leak in the roof that is causing damage to the wall near the Disston St. door. There is also a leak above the gymnasium door. Russell Roofing is being contacted to assess the problems.

Our first workday will be on March 24, 2012 where we will clean up the church yard and clean out the basement of Buchanan Building. This date was changed from March 17th due to a conflict on that day. Please mark your calendar.

I will be working in the coming months on a comprehensive property assessment to address issues in each building so that an action plan can be formulated. I am also looking into grant writing to help offset the cost of repair costs. I encourage any member to get involved in the committee. This is your parish and your input is important. Please feel free to contact me with your comments, questions, suggestions, and concerns.

Peace be with you all, Chuck McGee

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Sermons Online
Have you ever skipped church on a Sunday and wondered what you missed? Have you ever heard such a great sermon that you wished you could share it with a friend or family member? Well, now you can. We've created a new feature on our website where the audio recording of each week's sermon is available, along with the readings. If you are not able to attend church on Sunday, you can go online anytime during the week and get some insight into your faith. Please give it a try!

Vestry Highlights
At the February meeting of the Vestry, the parish budget for 2012 was discussed at length and adopted. Our next meeting is on Monday, March 19 at 7pm in the Buchanan Building.

Wednesdays in Lent
Each Wednesday in Lent, we will say Evening Prayer at 7pm in the Buchanan Building and then partake of a Monastic Meal, a simple meal taken in silence while we listen to readings from the Bible or other appropriate texts. This is a centuries-old practice used by religious orders to help turn attention away from the cares of the world and toward God.

Women of Trinity
I hope everyone enjoyed a warm winter break. We will be resuming our regular meetings beginning Tuesday, March 13. Please make a
note that this meeting will begin at 9:30am. The reason for the time change is because we will be preparing soup for the shut-ins in our parish. We are also asking our members to prepare muffins at home which will be packaged with the soup. If you have any questions, please email or call Nellie Duddy at 215-745-3739.

Calendar and Your Feedback

Please visit our new interactive online calendar on our website that allows you to view events at Trinity by week or month, and in a variety of formats. You can also print out the calendar in a way that works best for you. Please also email any input for the April Trinitarian to me by March 27. Cheers, Pete (your Trinitarian editor)

Schedule of Events

Every Sunday, Mass at 8am (spoken) and 10am (with music and church school during the service, followed by coffee hour in the Buchanan Building)

Every Sunday, Senior Choir rehearsal at 8:45am in the Buchanan Building, Junior Choir rehearsal after the 10am service in the Choir Room

Thursday, March 1, Bell Choir Rehearsal at 7pm in the Church

Friday, March 2, Mass at 10am in the Church

Sunday, March 4, Second Sunday in Lent

Tuesday, March 6, Girls Friendly Society at 7pm in the Children's House

Wednesday, March 7, Monastic Meal at 7pm in the Buchanan Building

Thursday, March 8, Bell Choir Rehearsal at 7:30pm in the Church

Friday, March 9, Mass at 10am in the Church

Sunday, March 11, Third Sunday in Lent

Tuesday, March 13, Women of Trinity at 9:30am in the Buchanan Building

Tuesday, March 13, Wardens' Meeting at 9:30am in the Church Office

Tuesday, March 13, Girls Friendly Society at 7pm in the Children's House

Wednesday, March 14, Monastic Meal at 7pm in the Buchanan Building

Thursday, March 15, Property Committee Meeting at 7pm in the Buchanan Building

Thursday, March 15, Bell Choir Rehearsal at 7:30pm in the Church

Friday, March 16, Mass at 10am in the Church

Saturday, March 17, Messiah Ballet at 2pm at the Academy of Music
Sunday, March 18, Fourth Sunday in Lent

Monday, March 19, Vestry Meeting at 7pm in the Buchanan Building

Wednesday, March 21, Monastic Meal at 7pm in the Buchanan Building

Thursday, March 22, Bell Choir Rehearsal at 7:30pm in the Church

Friday, March 23, Mass at 10am in the Church

Saturday, March 24, Cleanup Day at 10am in the Churchyard

Sunday, March 25, The Feast of the Annunciation

Tuesday, March 27, Girls Friendly Society at 7pm in the Children's House

Wednesday, March 28, Monastic Meal at 7pm in the Buchanan Building

Thursday, March 29, Bell Choir Rehearsal at 7:30pm in the Church

Friday, March 30, Mass at 10am in the Church

Saturday, March 31, Acolyte Rehearsal at 10am in the Church

Palm Sunday, April 1

Maundy Thursday, April 5

Good Friday, April 6

Easter Sunday, April 8